

# Vocabulary Workshop® Tools for Excellence

**Differentiated Passages**

**Grade 11**

## PASSAGE 1

## UNIT 14

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 14. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

## Revolutionary Women

## &lt;Historical Nonfiction&gt;

**D**uring the American Revolution, myriad colonial-era women, stirred by patriotic fervor, were not **amenable** to continuing their customary roles in the home. Instead, from the **inception** of the conflict, they influenced the trajectory of the war. The following is an account of a handful of these notable women.

For Mercy Otis Warren of Massachusetts, the pen was mightier than the sword; in the early 1770s, as tensions between England and the colonies escalated, Warren put her writing aptitude to work for the Patriots. One of her

plays, *The Adulateur* (1772) **berated** Massachusetts's royal governor, while two others, *The Defeat* (1773) and *The Group* (1775), attacked Loyalists—colonists loyal to England. Warren's plays were reprinted in newspapers and converted many people living in the colonies to the Patriot cause.

Dacey Langston, only fifteen years old and a girl, seemed an improbable spy; yet for months this **precocious** South Carolinian outwitted the Loyalist troops encamped around her family's plantation. Langston surreptitiously relayed vital information to Patriot militias encamped in the countryside, and one night she traveled twenty miles on a **tortuous** country path and crossed a **turgid** stream to warn the militia of a Loyalist attack. Their attack thwarted, the Loyalists finally determined that Langston was a spy and **sadistically** attempted to shoot her father, but Langston shielded him with her body and **supplanted** with the soldiers to shoot her first. The soldiers, impressed with her bravery, let both Langstons live.

Not every woman of the Revolution was a Patriot. Flora MacDonald was born in Scotland and achieved notoriety by saving the life of "Bonnie Prince Charlie," a Scottish royal who aspired to the throne of England. MacDonald retained her **obdurate** support for the monarchy even after emigrating to North Carolina with her husband in 1774. She helped raise a Loyalist unit to fight the Patriots, but at the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge the Loyalists lost. The **carnage** was horrific and MacDonald's husband was



Mercy Otis Warren, circa 1763

## PASSAGE 1

*Mrs. Schuyler  
Burning Her  
Wheat Fields on  
the Approach of  
the British, by  
EG Leutze, 1852*



imprisoned, so MacDonald, with her resources **depleted**, moved to Canada.

Some women of the Revolution, such as Catherine Schuyler, were saboteurs who deprived the invading army of supplies. Schuyler ignited the wheat fields on her land in upstate New York in 1777, when a voracious British army was approaching from Canada. Schuyler elected not to feed this **extraneous** force, but deciding to burn the wheat must have been difficult, for there was no **surfeit** of food in the colonies.

Women were excluded from the army, but a number of women masqueraded as men to serve in the Continental army. The identity of one, a woman from Maine, is unknown

although she served until war's end; but another, Ann Bailey of Massachusetts, was found out after just three weeks. Bailey was fined and imprisoned for her deception, her record stating: "Discharged. Being a woman dressed in men's cloths." [sic] Sally St. Clair enlisted with her boyfriend and died during a British siege in Georgia. One of the best-known cases of a woman serving in the army is that of Deborah Sampson, who as "Robert Shurtliff" fought courageously and met all the **criteria** of a good soldier for eighteen months. A doctor treating her for an **infirmary** discovered her secret, but Sampson received an honorable discharge and even a pension for her service. Later she **expatiated** on her experiences during a lecture tour of her native New England.



Line engraving  
depicting  
Deborah  
Sampson as  
a soldier in the  
Continental  
army



## PASSAGE 2

## UNIT 14

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 14. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

## Revolutionary Women

### <Historical Nonfiction>

During the American Revolution, myriad colonial-era women were not **amenable** to continuing their customary roles in the home. Instead, from the **inception** of the conflict, they influenced the trajectory of the war.

For Mercy Otis Warren of Massachusetts, the pen was mightier than the sword. As tensions between England and the colonies escalated, Warren put her writing aptitude to work for the Patriots. One of her plays, *The Adulateur* (1772), **berated** Massachusetts's royal governor. Two others, *The Defeat* (1773) and

*The Group* (1775), attacked Loyalists—colonists loyal to England. Warren's plays converted many people to the Patriot cause.

Dicey Langston seemed an improbable spy. Only 15 years old, this **precocious** South Carolinian outwitted the Loyalist troops encamped around her family's plantation. Langston surreptitiously relayed vital information to Patriot militias in the countryside. One night she traveled 20 miles on a **tortuous** country path and crossed a **turgid** stream to warn the militia of a Loyalist attack. Their attack thwarted, the Loyalists finally determined that Langston was a spy and **sadistically** attempted to shoot her father. Langston shielded him with her body and **supplanted** with the soldiers to shoot her first. The soldiers let both Langstons live.

Not every woman of the Revolution was a Patriot. Flora MacDonald was born in Scotland and saved the life of a Scottish royal who aspired to the throne of England. MacDonald retained her **obdurate** support for the monarchy even after emigrating to North Carolina in 1774. She helped raise a Loyalist unit to fight the Patriots. But at the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge, the Loyalists lost. The **carnage** was horrific and MacDonald's husband was imprisoned. MacDonald, with her resources **depleted**, moved to Canada.



Mercy Otis Warren, circa 1763

Unit 14

## PASSAGE 2

*Mrs. Schuyler  
Burning Her  
Wheat Fields on  
the Approach of  
the British, by  
EG Leutze, 1852*



Some women of the Revolution, such as Catherine Schuyler, deprived the invading army of supplies. Schuyler ignited the wheat fields on her land in upstate New York when a British Army was approaching from Canada. Schuyler elected not to feed this **extraneous** force. But deciding to burn the wheat must have been difficult, for there was no **surfeit** of food in the colonies.

A number of women masqueraded as men to serve in the Continental army. One of the best-known cases is that of Deborah Sampson. As "Robert Shurtliff," she fought courageously and met all the **criteria** of a

good soldier for 18 months. A doctor treating her for an **infirmity** discovered her secret. Sampson received an honorable discharge and even a pension for her service. Later she **expatiated** on her experiences during a lecture tour of her native New England.



Line engraving  
depicting Deborah  
Sampson as a  
soldier in the  
Continental army

Unit 14